

FY2004 WHIP RANKING CRITERIA – EAST AREA, WASHINGTON					
Applicant Name			Date		
Ranking Completed By			Application No.		
Ecological Score			Total Ranking Score		
Location					
$\frac{1}{4}$ Section:		Section:	Township:	Range:	
Applicant Address:					
Phone: Email:					
Applicant is: <input type="checkbox"/> Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Operator (Operator's Proof of Control attached: YES <input type="checkbox"/>)					
Applicant eligible under Adjusted Gross Income limit: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> (as certified to FSA, per 7 CFR Part 1400)					
Land Eligible YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Private Owned ___ Tribal Owned ___ State, County, Local Gov't Owned					
Local NRCS Contact (Name, Phone and Email):					
County		FSA Farm & Tract No.		Total WHIP Offered Acres	
Habitat Type(s)	Offered Acres of Habitat Benefited				
	Upland Acres				
	Wetland Acres				
	Riparian Acres				
	Aquatic (ponds/lakes) Acres				
	Aquatic (streams) Acres				
	T & E Acres		# of T&E species likely to benefit:		
Acres of Invasive Species Controlled or Eradicated:					
Total Estimated Cost				Requested Cost-Share Dollars	
WHIP Objectives					
Identify wildlife species targeted:					
Describe wildlife habitat resource problems:					
Describe habitat restoration needed:					
Tech Note Biology-14 , HSI: _____ Existing condition					
Describe how landowner's objectives will contribute to native habitat restoration:					
List proposed practices:					
Tech Note Biology-14 , HSI: _____ Planned condition					

ECOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS		165 POINTS MAXIMUM	
1. Restoration of Primary Habitats		25 points maximum	Applicant's score
CHOOSE ONE	A. <u>Shrub-steppe</u> - planting and management promotes the establishment of a mix of native herbaceous vegetation and at least one native woody species.	25 points	
	B. <u>Eastside grassland</u> - planting and management promotes the establishment of a mix of native herbaceous vegetation.	25 points	
	C. <u>Shrub-steppe</u> - planting and management promotes the establishment of a mix of native and beneficial non-native herbaceous vegetation and at least one native woody species.	15 points	
	D. <u>Eastside grassland</u> - planting and management promotes the establishment of a mix of native and beneficial non-native herbaceous vegetation.	15 points	
	E. <u>Shrub-steppe or eastside grassland</u> - planting and management enhances established habitat by adding at least 3 native woody species to the site.	10 points	
	F. Planting and management promotes the establishment of a mix of beneficial non-native herbaceous vegetation.	5 points	
	G. Not Applicable.	0 points	
	NOTE: All herbaceous mixtures must contain at least 20% species composition of legumes and/or forbs.		
2. Restoration of Secondary Habitats		20 points maximum	Applicant's score
CHOOSE ONE OR MORE	A. Planting and management promotes the establishment and/or enhancement of wetland habitat.	5 points	
	B. Planting and management promotes the establishment and/or enhancement of coniferous forest species.	5 points	
	C. Planting and management promotes the establishment and/or enhancement of native deciduous forest species.	10 points	
	D. Planting and management promotes the establishment of a vegetative buffer (see instructions for list of buffer practices.)	5 points	
3. Enhancement or restoration will result in conversion of cropland or hayland to wildlife habitat as the primary landuse		20 points maximum	Applicant's score
CHOOSE ONE	Yes	20 points	
	No	0 points	

4. Enhancement or restoration will result in conversion of rangeland, pastureland or grazed woodland to wildlife habitat as the primary landuse		20 points maximum	Applicant's score
CHOOSE ONE	A. Livestock will be excluded from the wildlife habitat area.	20 points	
	B. Livestock grazing will be managed to meet NRCS specs and RMS quality criteria for the wildlife landuse.	10 points	
5. Site is located on or within close proximity to existing managed wildlife area		10 point maximum	Applicant's score
CHOOSE ONE	A. On, or within a mile, of a managed wildlife area or adjacent to an existing WRP easement.	10 points	
	B. Adjacent to an existing CRP, WRP or WHIP site having a cost-share agreement which will be in effect for the life of this contract; On or adjacent to lands in public ownership which provide acceptable habitat.	5 points	
	C. Not Applicable.	0 points	
	NOTE: WHIP contract acres cannot be on CRP or WRP acres.		
6. Restoration improves habitat conditions for T&E, candidate, sensitive, or priority fish or wildlife species		45 point maximum	Applicant's score
CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY	A. Federal or state-listed threatened or endangered species.	15 points	
	B. Federal proposed or state sensitive and candidate species.	10 points	
	C. Other State Priority Species (listed in PHS).	5 points	
	List species, per above categories: A: B: C: Describe direct habitat benefits to <u>each</u> species:		
	NOTE: Site improvement shall directly benefit enhancement, creation, or protection of habitat for the identified species. List all species that will be benefited. Points awarded only once per species, up to a cumulative total of 45 points.		

7. Likelihood of success (based on average ratings from "Likelihood of Success" Worksheet)		10 point maximum	Applicant's score
CHOOSE ONE	A. High – no or few habitat restoration problems during and after the establishment period.	10 points	
	B. Medium – moderate problems associated with restoration activity.	5 to 9 points	
	C. Low - High degree of disturbance, competition, indefinite use of irrigation, and/or continued maintenance of structures.	<5 points	
Total Ecological score (150 max):			
ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS		10 POINTS MAXIMUM	
8. Cost of practice operation and maintenance (O&M)		10 point maximum	Applicant's score
CHOOSE ONE	A. Low Cost– minimal maintenance after establishment.	10 points	
	B. Medium Cost – structures, systems, or plantings require periodic (< less than once every year) maintenance or replacement.	5 points	
	C. High Cost – annual maintenance and/or management required.	0 points	
Economic score (10 max):			
SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS		10 POINTS MAXIMUM	
9. Education and recreational benefits (public access for outdoor recreation site, outdoor classroom, and/or onsite research)		10 point maximum	Applicant's score
CHOOSE ONE	Yes	10 points	
	No	0 points	
Social score (10 max):			
Total Ranking Score – Maximum score is 170 points.			

FY04 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program East Area, Washington State

Ranking Criteria Guidelines and Instructions

This ranking criteria will be used to evaluate and select applications for funding under the FY04 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program in the East Area of Washington State. All WHIP projects must be planned to meet the Natural Resources Conservation Service resource management system level quality criteria for wildlife concerns to be eligible for this program. Refer to the WHIP Eligible Practices list for the NRCS technical practices that are eligible for financial assistance under a WHIP Conservation Program Agreement.

Total WHIP Offered Acres: Enter acres within proposed WHIP boundary. The offered acres on the application must be contiguous or connected by an existing wildlife habitat corridor.

Offered Acres of Habitat Benefited: Enter the acres of each habitat type for land included within the proposed WHIP boundary. Acres listed under any or all of the habitat types may be duplicated in the T&E acres. For example, a WHIP application is for 5 acres of Upland and 5 acres of Wetland, and is receiving 15 points under ranking criteria 6. Enter 5 acres of upland habitat, 5 acres of wetland habitat, and the number of habitat acres that directly benefit T&E species identified for the application.

Total Estimated Cost: Enter an estimated total cost for implementation of the practices identified by the applicant in the WHIP objectives for the application. This can be obtained outlining a preliminary Wildlife Habitat Development Plan, and using the cost data in the WHIP cost list in Section I of the Field Office Technical Guide or a cost estimate based on your knowledge of typical cost for the practices in the local area.

Requested Cost Share Dollars: Enter the estimated cost share that the applicant is requesting. This information will be used to determine how many applications NRCS can select for funding. The actual cost share that the producer will receive will be as agreed-to in the WHIP Conservation Program Agreement based upon what the producer determines the actual cost will be.

Ecological Considerations

1. Restoration of Primary Habitats

Shrub-Steppe habitat and Eastside Grassland habitat areas are identified on the "EASTERN WASHINGTON STATE WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVE PROGRAM (WHIP) HABITAT MAP" dated June 2002. If the offered acres are not within the Shrub-steppe or Eastside grassland habitat areas identified on the map, the acres may be eligible for points if the soil survey supports either habitat type at the site, and a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife representative or NRCS biologist concurs in writing that the site is suitable to restore the native habitat type.

When more than one primary habitat type will be restored, award points for the predominant habitat type.

- A. Shrub-steppe - planting and management shall ensure that there is a mixture of native herbaceous vegetation that is beneficial for the wildlife species of concern. Projects that promote the restoration of sagebrush through seeding in established native grass stands (where it is lacking due to fire or past management) may receive the full 25 points. Mixes shall include at least 20% species composition of native forbs and/or legumes and at least one native shrub. **If no legumes/forbs are planted then reduce this score to 20 points.**
- B. Eastside grassland - planting and management shall ensure that there is a mixture of native herbaceous vegetation that is beneficial for the wildlife species of concern. This mix shall include at least 20% species composition of native forbs and/or legumes.
- C. Shrub-steppe - planting and management shall ensure that there is a mixture of native and introduced herbaceous vegetation that is beneficial for the wildlife species of concern. This mix shall include at least 20% species composition of native and/or introduced forbs or legumes and at least one native shrub. **If no legumes/forbs are planted then reduce this score to 10 points.**
- D. Eastside grassland - planting and management shall ensure that there is a mixture of native and introduced herbaceous vegetation that is beneficial for the wildlife species of concern. This mix shall include at least 20% species composition of native and/or introduced forbs and/or legumes.
- E. Shrub-steppe or Eastside grassland - planting and management shall help provide habitat diversity of the steppe or grassland community by introducing at least 3 native woody species into established sites.
- F. Planting and management shall ensure the establishment of a mixture of non-native herbaceous vegetation. This mix shall include at least 20% species composition of forbs and/or legumes.

2. Restoration of Secondary Habitats (including wetland, coniferous forest, native deciduous forest, or buffers)

Planting and management shall ensure the establishment and enhancement of wetland, coniferous forest, native deciduous forest, or buffers to benefit wildlife. All plantings shall meet the appropriate applicable NRCS standards including wetland habitat management, wetland restoration, wetland creation, wetland enhancement, wildlife upland habitat management, tree and shrub establishment, buffer practices, etc. If a site already meets the NRCS standard the offer is not eligible for these points.

Wetland projects that do not include any other habitat types should apply for funding under the Wetlands Reserve Program. Wetland projects that are combined with upland habitat projects can be funded by WHIP if funds are available.

Points may be awarded in this category for multiple habitats, up to a maximum of 20 points for the category.

- A. Planting and management will promote the establishment and/or enhancement of habitats associated with wetlands.
- B. Planting and management will promote the establishment and/or enhancement of coniferous forest species.

- C. Planting and management will promote the establishment and/or enhancement of native deciduous forest species, such as Aspen, Black Cottonwood, Water Birch, etc.
 - D. Planting and management will promote the establishment of one or more of the following vegetative buffers: Field Border, Filter Strip, Hedgerow Planting, Riparian Herbaceous Cover, Riparian Forest Buffer, and/or Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment. A minimum of 5 rows of trees/shrubs will be required for Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment.
3. If enhancement or restoration results in the conversion of cropland or hayland to wildlife habitat as the primary landuse, these points shall be awarded.
 4. If enhancement or restoration will result in the conversion of rangeland, pastureland or grazed woodland to wildlife habitat as the primary landuse, then these points shall be awarded.
 5. If a portion of the Wildlife Habitat Development Plan is located on or within a mile of an existing managed wildlife area, then the appropriate points shall be awarded. A managed wildlife area is defined as:
 - Federal or state lands managed for wildlife
 - A county park managed in a natural condition
 - Nature Conservancy easement
 - Tribal wildlife/natural resource area
 - Wetland Reserve Program easement
 - Lands being managed under existing Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife or U. S. Fish and Wildlife agreements
 - Private lands that are under long-term protection agreements, such as:
 - ❖ Existing WHIP contracts (contracts funded after October 1, 2001).
 - ❖ Wetland Reserve Program cost-share agreements that will be in effect for the term of the WHIP agreement
 - ❖ Conservation Reserve Program contracts that will be in effect for the term of the WHIP contract where:
 - the N1A approved mix is a CP4B, CP4D, CP2 (40 point mix or greater), or
 - CP23 where the adjacent lands are planted to a 50 point mix, or
 - CP22 with a signed CRP-1
 - ❖ **NOTE: WHIP agreement acres cannot be on CRP or WRP acres.**
 6. Restoration improves habitat conditions for federal Threatened & Endangered species, federal proposed or state sensitive or candidate species, and/or state priority wildlife or fish species. State priority species are those listed in WDFW's *Priority Habitat and Species*. Species information may be found at these websites:

http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/diversity/soc/soc.htm	(federal or state-listed species)
http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/hab/phspage.htm	(other state priority species)

NOTE: Site restoration must directly benefit recovery or protection of identified species. Points awarded only once per species (not for multiple designation of the same species), up to a cumulative total of 45 points.

List species and describe direct habitat benefits to each species.

The NRCS State Office will provide WDFW PHS database information for each application. Please email the following application information to Dave Brower at dave.brower@wa.usda.gov Include a descriptive subject line, such as “WHIP PHS Data Request”, and the following information in the body of the email:

- (1) County
- (2) Applicant name
- (3) Application number
- (4) Legal description to the nearest quarter section (can be full sections only if the offered acres are the full section)

Dave will search the WDFW PHS database and provide you with a list of species present as well as their listing status.

A. Federal or state-listed Threatened and Endangered species:

- For terrestrial T&E species, if the acres to be enrolled in WHIP are located within a T&E area designated on the WDFW Species of Concern Map (used for CRP signup 20) or are identified as having federal or state-listed T&E species in the WDFW PHS database (see note above) then these points shall be awarded.
- For T&E salmonids, acres to be enrolled in WHIP must have a stream or water body and be located within the green area on the Watersheds Supporting Salmonid Map (used for CRP signup 20) or must be identified as having federal or state-listed T&E salmonids in the WDFW PHS database (see note above) in order to receive these points.
- For other aquatic T&E species, acres to be enrolled in WHIP must have a stream or water body and must be identified as having federal or state-listed T&E species in the WDFW PHS database (see note above) in order to receive these points.
- For both terrestrial and aquatic T&E species, if the local WDFW biologist, USFWS biologist, NRCS biologist, or Tribal field representative determines that a federal or state-listed T&E species is present, then these points shall be awarded. Document and attach their determination to the WHIP application ranking worksheet.

B. Federal or state-listed proposed or candidate species:

- For both upland and aquatic, if the acres to be enrolled are identified as having one or more of these species on the WDFW PHS database (see note above) points shall be awarded. If the database search does not show any proposed or candidate species for the application area, but the local WDFW biologist, USFWS biologist, NRCS biologist, or Tribal field representative determines that one of these species is present, then these points shall be awarded. Document and attach their determination to the WHIP application ranking worksheet.

C. State Priority Habitat Species (PHS):

- For both upland and aquatic, if the acres to be enrolled in WHIP have a species of concern not already listed in A or B above, but identified on the WDFW PHS database (see note above) points shall be awarded. If the database search does not show a PHS for the application area, but the local WDFW biologist, NRCS biologist, or Tribal field representative determines that a priority species is present, then these points shall be awarded. Document and attach their determination to the WHIP application ranking worksheet.

7. Likelihood of success:

See attached worksheet. Scores based on average of the values rated.

- A. High - No or few habitat restoration problems during and/or after the establishment period. Producer must agree to implement all practices within the first three years of the agreement and this agreement is incorporated into the WHDP. Slight impacts from human disturbance (e.g. no supplemental irrigation water is needed to establish woody plants and/or grasses), passive uses, livestock excluded from WHIP contract area or prescribed grazing being implemented
- B. Medium - Moderate problems associated with restoration activities. Prescribed grazing plan has to be implemented during contract period. Moderate degree of artificialness. For example: planting native plants that require supplemental water during the establishment period only
- C. Low - Severe impacts by humans. E.g. Livestock grazing without a prescribed grazing plan. Permanent irrigation water is required for plant survival.

Economic Considerations

8. Cost of Operation and maintenance (O&M) of practices:

- A. Low Cost - Minimal maintenance after establishment period.
- B. Medium Cost - Structures requiring periodic maintenance or structure replacement.
- C. High Cost - Structures requiring annual maintenance and/or management.

Social Considerations

9. Education and recreational benefits:

If the participant agrees to allow educational and recreational activities to occur on the WHIP acres, with landowner's permission, these points will be awarded. Examples of educational or recreational activities include:

- Research
- Outdoor recreation site, i.e. bird watching
- Outdoor classroom

Ranking the Applications

All applications will be scored according to the above ranking criteria. Enter the total Ecological Score and the Total Ranking Score on page 1 of the ranking worksheet. In the event of a tie in the Total Ranking score, the total Ecological Score will be used as a first tie-breaker between applications. The second tie-breaker will be the total of the scores for restoration of Primary and Secondary habitats. The third tie-breaker will be the random number generated by use of the tracking code feature in ProTracts, the NRCS's web-based Program Contracts System.

The Area Conservationist may utilize up to 30% of the WHIP allocation to fund special projects not identified in this ranking criteria. This special provision will provide an opportunity to fund projects that are unique and/or where we can participate as project partners with other wildlife agencies or organizations to fund a special project.

WHIP "Likelihood of Success" Evaluation					
Applicant's Name:		Farm & Tract No:			
SCORE	IMPEDIMENTS TO SUCCESS AT SITE				
	GROWING CONDITIONS	WEED CONTROL	STRUCTURE UTILIZATION	INVASIVE PLANTS	SITE DISTURBANCE
	Score based on the difficulty of plant establishment due to <u>water</u> and <u>soil</u> needs of plantings, seeds, seedlings, cuttings, or rooted stock selected for the site	Score based on the difficulty of plant establishment and survival due to <u>competition</u> from existing weeds on or adjacent to site.	Score based on the <u>need</u> for man-made structures that must be installed and which may require long term <u>maintenance</u>	Score based on the <u>percentage</u> of the native plant community that occupies the site and will be left intact after removal of invasive plants	Score based on existing and future negative impacts to fish and wildlife habitat caused by <u>livestock</u> presence on site
	<i>Supplemental water needed to establish and/or maintain plantings</i>	<i>Control of invasive or noxious weeds that may hamper site establishment</i>	<i>Degree of artificiality</i>	<i>% intact</i>	<i>Level of disturbance:</i>
	10	No supplemental water needed for establishment	Minimal weed control needed on less than 50% of site or, Weed control limited to seedbed preparation	No man-made structures	≥80%
5	No supplemental water needed after establishment	Weed control may be needed before and during establishment on 50% or more of site or, Mechanical and chemical controls are needed and provided through establishment	Man-made structures like irrigation systems used during establishment period only or guzzlers that need only periodic maintenance	11-79%	Moderate- Producer agrees to implement prescribed grazing plan on ranch (including WHIP acres) during contract period
0	Irrigation water needed indefinitely	Weed controls needed on 100% of site or, Site is dominated by annual grasses and other weeds that will require long term restoration conversion effort	Yearly maintenance needed (like water control structures)	≤10% or no existing native plant community	Severe- Livestock grazing without a grazing plan or year long use
N/A	Not applicable (no new plantings on site)	Not applicable (no new plantings on site)			Not applicable (no livestock on site)
	Score = _____	Score = _____	Score = _____	Score = _____	Score = _____

_____ Total of scores above / _____ # of Items scored = _____ Average score (Use average score to answer question 8 on ranking form)

NOTE: Score and average only those elements that apply to the applicant's habitat restoration or enhancement project. (E.g. if only four elements scored, divide total by 4 instead of 5, etc.)